

What is claimed is:

1. An imaging system comprising an image input device for entering image data from an original image or an image file,  
5 an image processing device for processing said image data to produce an output image, an image output device for outputting said output image as a hard copy or as data file, and a resolution adjusting device for automatically adjusting an input resolution of said image input device in accordance with an  
10 output resolution of said image output device, a size or data pixel number of said output image, and a size of said original image or a data pixel number of said image file.

2. An imaging system as recited in claim 1, further  
15 comprising a monitor for displaying an image as entered through said image input device, and a crop boundary on said entered image to designate a cropping area of said entered image, wherein image data of said cropping area is used for producing said output image.

20 3. An imaging system as recited in claim 2, further comprising a device for modifying the size or position of said crop boundary on said monitor.

25 4. An imaging system as recited in claim 3, wherein said resolution adjusting device converts the data pixel number of said image file, as entered through said image input device, to a value determined according to the output resolution of said

image output device, the size or data pixel number of said output image and said cropping area.

5        5. An imaging system as recited in claim 1, wherein said  
device includes a scanner, and said image output  
device includes a printer, and wherein said resolution  
adjusting device calculates an input resolution for said  
scanner on the basis of an output resolution of said printer,  
a size of an area to be read out by said scanner from said original  
10 image, and a print size of said output image.

15        6. An imaging system as recited in claim 5, wherein there  
are a plurality of predetermined input resolutions available  
for said scanner, and said resolution adjusting device sets said  
scanner at one of said predetermined input resolutions that is  
the nearest to said calculated resolution, or a value less than  
and nearer to said calculated resolution, or a value more than  
and nearer to said calculated resolution.

20        7. An imaging system as recited in claim 2, wherein said  
image processing device produces a synthetic image as said  
output image from a plurality of images entered through said  
image input device, by designating a cropping area of each of  
said original images and pasting said cropping area in a  
25 respective one of pasting frames of a template that shows a  
layout for said synthetic image.

8. An imaging system as recited in claim 7, wherein said monitor further has a sub display area for displaying a template image of said template, and images pasted in said pasting frames are displayed in said template image sequentially in a real time fashion, and wherein said crop boundary displayed on said entered image has a similar shape to one of said pasting frames that is selected by selecting a corresponding frame of said template image on said sub display area.

9. An imaging system as recited in claim 8, further comprising a frame modifying device for modifying the size or position of any of said pasting frames of said template.

10. An imaging system as recited in claim 9, wherein said resolution adjusting device adjusts the input resolution for each of said entered images to be synthesized, in accordance with the output resolution of said image output device, the size of said cropping area of each of said entered images, and the size of said pasting frame where said cropping area is to be pasted in.

11. An image system as recited in claim 9, wherein said frame modifying device may change the size and position of any of said pasting frames after an image is pasted in said pasting frame, and said resolution adjusting device readjusts the input resolution in accordance with the modified size of said pasting frame.

12. An imaging system as recited in claim 7, wherein said template is selected from among a plurality of templates showing different layouts, and one of said plurality of templates has an outer frame and at least an inner frame as said pasting frames, and a first image pasted in said inner frame is superimposed on a second image that is pasted in said outer frame, and wherein said resolution adjusting device adjusts the input resolution for the first image in accordance with the input resolution for the second image.

10

13. An imaging system as recited in claim 7, further comprising a storage device for storing said synthetic image as an image file consisting of image data of respective images as pasted in said pasting frames, and position data representative of relative positions of said pasting frames to each other.

15

14. An imaging system comprising a scanner, a monitor, an image processing device and a printer, said scanner having a pre-scanning mode for taking image data out of an original image at a low resolution to display a preview image on said monitor, and a fine scanning mode for taking image data out of said original image at a higher resolution, wherein said image processing device produces an output image from said image data taken in said fine scanning mode, said imaging system comprising:

20

25

a cropping area designating device for designating a cropping area of said original image on said preview image, said

cropping area being to be scanned in said fine scanning mode;  
and

a resolution setting device for obtaining an optimum resolution for said fine scanning mode on the basis of a size  
5 of the designated cropping area, a print size of said cropping area and an output resolution of said printer, and setting said higher resolution of said scanner at a value that is determined by said optimum resolution.

10 15. An imaging system as recited in claim 14, wherein there are a plurality of predetermined input resolutions available for said scanner, and said resolution setting device sets said higher resolution of said scanner at one of said predetermined input resolutions that is the nearest to said  
15 optimum resolution, or less than and nearer to said optimum resolution, or more than and nearer to said optimum resolution.

16. An imaging system as recited in claim 15, wherein said monitor displays a crop boundary on said preview image to show  
20 said cropping area as designated by said cropping area designating device, a size of said original image, a size of a recording sheet used in said printer, and an image of a selected template, said template showing at least a pasting frame and a size and a position of said pasting frame relative to the  
25 recording sheet, wherein said cropping area may be pasted in said pasting frame by operating on said monitor.

17. An imaging system as recited in claim 16, wherein said selected template has a plurality of pasting frames, and said image processing device produces a synthetic image from a plurality of images entered through said scanner, by  
5 designating a cropping area of each of said entered images and pasting said cropping area in a respective one of said pasting frames of said template.

18. An imaging system as recited in claim 17, wherein said  
10 crop boundary displayed on said preview image has a similar shape to one of said pasting frames that is selected by selecting a corresponding frame of said template image.

19. An imaging system as recited in claim 18, further  
15 comprising a frame modifying device for modifying the size or position of any of said pasting frames of said template by modifying the size or position of either said crop boundary or a corresponding frame of said template image.

20. An imaging system as recited in claim 19, wherein said  
20 resolution setting device sets said higher resolution of said scanner for each of said entered images, in accordance with the output resolution of said printer, the size of said cropping area of each of said entered images, and the size of said pasting  
25 frame where said cropping area is to be pasted in.

21. An image system as recited in claim 20, wherein said frame modifying device may change the size and position of any

of said pasting frames after an image is pasted in said pasting frame, and said resolution setting device resets said higher resolution of said scanner in accordance with the modified size of said pasting frame.

5

22. An imaging system comprising:

an image input device for entering image data from an external data storage device that stores full-dressed image data of at least an image, and thumbnail image data of said image;

10 a display device for displaying a thumbnail of said image on the basis of said thumbnail image data;

a cropping area designating device for designating a cropping area of said entered image on said displayed thumbnail;

15 a printer for printing said cropping area in a designated size on the basis of said full-dressed image data; and

a resolution converting device for converting resolution of said full-dressed image data into a value that is determined in accordance with an original size and the designated print size of said cropping area, and an output resolution of said  
20 printer.